

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03324 172224Z

71

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 VO-03

SS-15 CIAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 /052 W

----- 026992

R 172043Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 792

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3324

FOR SONNENFELDT SY/SAS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR

SUBJ: SERGEI NEMTSANOV, SOVIET OLYMPICS DEFECTOR

REF: OTTAWA 3177

1. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA AUGUST 16/17 REPORTED SOVIET OLYMPIC DEFECTOR NEMTSANOV IS CONSIDERING RETURN TO USSR. PUSSESTER, CHIEF OF REFUGEE POLICY DIVISION, MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT THIS IS NEMTSANOV'S MOOD. HE SUSPECTS IT IS DUE TO COMBINATION OF UNREQUITED LOVE FOR US GIRLFRIEND, REALIZATION THAT EVERYDAY LIFE IS NOT THE SAME AS THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE, AND ORDINARY HOMESICKNESS OF SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY. GOC IS CONTEMPLATING WHAT ACTION TO TAKE, IF ANY; THEY ARE TENDING AT PRESENT TO DO NOTHING AND LET NEMTSANOV MAKE HIS OWN DECISION. HE HAS FREEDOM TO GO AS HE CHOOSES WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OR KNOWLEDGE OF GOC. PUDDESTER COMMENTED THAT IN FACT NEMTSANOV HAD PLANNED TO LEAVE AUGUST 17, BUT DELAYED TO THINK THINGS OVER A BIT LONGER.

LEARY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA03324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760316-0117
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760846/aaaabobp.tel
Line Count: 49
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 3177
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SERGEI NEMTSANOV, SOVIET OLYMPICS DEFECTOR
TAGS: PINR, UR, CA, (NEMTSANOV, SERGEI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006